

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“The Value of Your Soul” Pt. 1

By Brian Meade

The human body is mostly composed of water, oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, calcium, and other elements as well. But the worth of all the organic chemicals that make up your body are worth only about \$1.00 to \$1.50 in monetary value.

As of 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency set the value of a human life at \$9.1 million. Meanwhile, the Food and Drug Administration put it at \$7.9 million — and the Department of Transportation figure was around \$6 million.

But Jesus’ estimate of our soul goes way farther than monetary value, or anything else for that matter. Jesus said in Matthew 16:26, *“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

Jesus was teaching us that we are more valuable than just our body and the life we have here on the earth today— but our soul within this house of clay is worth more than all the world can contain!

The definition that Vine’s Expository Dictionary Of Old And New Testament Words tells us it is the *“The immaterial, invisible part of man, Acts 2:27. The disembodied (or “unclothed” or “naked” II Corinthians 5:3-4) man, Revelation 6:9.”* (soul— Vines Expository dictionary p. 588)

Your soul is what the apostle Paul calls your inner man, when he says, *“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.”* (2 Corinthians 4:16) We see the contrast between the “outer man” that everyone sees— but is decaying, While the “inner man” is not decaying, but rather being renewed, as Paul says, “day by day.”

Paul goes on to say (in just a few verses down) in chapter 5:1-3, *“For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked.”*

Here Paul pictures our body as a “*earthly tent*” and that when our body is “torn down,” we have another “building from God.” A clear picture of what happens to the outer and inner man at death, and later resurrection to a new body to cloth us. It is the inner man that is “naked” without a body at death. But that’s where God saves us from being unclothed by the new building (body) for our soul.

Your soul or spirit is what we worship God with “in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). It is what Paul speaks of in Romans 1:9, *“For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,”* (see also Ephesians 3:16)

Your soul has great value because:

I. It Is Made In The Image Of God.



John 4:24 also teaches us that God Himself is Spirit and we are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). But back in Genesis 2:7, *“Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”* That last word in that verse (“being”) literally means “soul.”

It is not the body that we have that is in the image of God— because God doesn’t have a body (see Luke 24:39). But rather God made us like unto Himself by giving us a spirit or soul within this body of our’s. And that is why we are valuable!

It is often that things designed and made by great craftsmen are extremely valuable in today’s economy. Just look at the prices people still pay to own a Stradivarius violin, or other instruments made by great craftsmanship and quality!

But you and I must confess that the greatest Designer and Craftsman of the universe— God Himself has made us great and valuable!

That’s why David said in Psalm 139:14, *“I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.”*

II. It Survives The Death Of The Body.

As we have already noted in 2 Corinthians 5:1-3, you can still exist without a body. But the body cannot be alive without your spirit, as James 2:26 sates, *“For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.”* But nowhere does the Bible teach that spirit is dead without the body!

From time to time we will sing a song in our songbooks, “I’ll Fly Away.” That song is a scriptural song because of what Ecclesiastes 12:7 says, *“then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.”* This song reminds us of what the Bible teaches, that we do survive the death of our body and fly away back to God.

Similar to this, in Luke 16:19-23, we see the rich man who lived *“in splendor every day.”* (verse 19) Lazarus is pictured as a beggar who was laid at his gate, *“covered with sores.”* (verse 20). The Bible goes on to say in verse 22, *“Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.”*

Both men died and Lazarus goes to the “bosom of Abraham,” while the rich man’s body is buried and yet is still alive in in hades.”

And Jesus’ words in Matthew 10:28, supports the teaching of the soul surviving the death of the body when He said, *“Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”*

Why is man is unable to kill the soul when they kill the body of Jesus’ followers? It is because your soul doesn’t die when your body does. That is why we should not fear men that can only kill the body.

All this brings us to the right conclusion that our soul is the most valuable thing you have because it is the only thing you can take with you from this earthly life. 1 Timothy 6:7 tells us, *“For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.”* (also see Job 1:21)

Your soul is worth infinitely more than all our earthly possessions because of this fact, you can’t take them with you!

III. It Took A Great Cost To Redeem It.

Things that are considered great in value have great cost to buy or redeem. That’s usually how we esteem the worth of something, by how much we have to pay for it to receive it. Then there are some things that are priceless! No amount of money can ever be enough to pay for them— that’s what Christ did for us at Calvary!

Peter tells us of the great cost to redeem fallen man from his sins in 1 Peter 1:18-19, *“knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.”*

It took the life and the blood of the only-begotten Son of God (1 John 4:9), the best that heaven had to offer as an atonement for sin. It took the greatest sacrifice that humanity has ever seen for our redemption out of the slavery to sin.

In Isaiah 53:4-5, Isaiah predicts the suffering Messiah’s mission as he says, *“Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”*

No one should ever think that they are simply no good or worth nothing, because Jesus went to the cross to buy you back from Satan’s domain with His blood. God thought so much of us and loved us enough to send His own Son because we have tremendous value to God (John 3:16; 15:13).

It is because we are worth saving that God has invested the greatest scheme for saving man— the scheme of redemption! It spanned thousands of years, involved men and angels, and cost Jesus’ life on the Roman cross outside the city of Jerusalem!

He did it all so that we might be saved by obedience to the gospel.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Harris, Hazel Corner, Clay Ford, Clois Wright, and Dan & Linda Hunt. Jeff Barnes got a good report from the doctor last week, as well as Jerry Hester.

Our Gospel Meeting begins September 29th and goes through October 4th. Jarrod Jacobs from Caneyville, Ky. will be our speaker for the week. Service times are 7:00 PM Monday through Friday.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Russell Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "The Christian & His Contentment"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Fred Johnson
The Book of Acts (Jason Longstreth)
Page 85 Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Busby
Psalm 93:1-5
Song Leader: Adam Harris
Lord's Supper: Doug George
Assisting: Paul Busby & Nathan Meade
Singing Service: Men of the Congregation Lead in Singing
Invitation: Brian Meade
Closing Prayer: Sam Johnson

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

September 25th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
The Book of Job (Mike Willis)
Page 48, Question #5
Invitation: Brian Meade
Song Leader: Chris Callahan
Closing Prayer: Paul Johnson